RAJYA SABHA

ednesday, the 3rd August, 1994/12th ravana, 1916 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. **Chairman** in the Chair.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति जी, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यह अपील किया था कि सहमति से सरकार को चलायेंगे, लेकिन सरकार टकराव से चल रही है और क्योंकि प्रतिभूति घोटाले पर जो कार्रवाई समिति की रिपोर्ट है उसको सरकार वापस नहीं ले रही है, इसलिए जनता दल (समाजवादी) ने यह फैसला लिया है कि वर्तमान जो मानसून सत्र है इसका हम बहिर्गमन करें ।

[तत्पश्चात् माननीय सदस्यों ने सदन त्याग किया]

श्री राम गोपाल यादव : माननीय सभापति जी,... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We must be grateful for the orderly withdrawal! Q. No. 141.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Elections in Jammu and Kashmir

*141. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:†

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir wherein he has opined that the situation in the State is ripe for holding elections; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Miss Saroj Khaparde.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the statement attributed to the Governor of J. and K.

The Government is committed to reactivation of the political process and the restoration of the democratic institutions in the State at the earliest, though it is not feasible to indicate any specific time frame for the latter. Concerted efforts are being made to contain violence and to create conditions conducive to achieving the above stated objectives, despite the grave provocations and impediments being created by vested interests.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the reply given by the Home Minister very carefully. He has given the reply to my question in, I would call, a *golemole* way, I am really not happy with the reply of the Minister. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government is aware of the latest statement, appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of 29th July, 1994, which was made by the President of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Committee, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar, to the effect that during the past one month the pressure of the militants has increased and more than 1,500 militants have infiltrated into the Valley and the politicians cannot just operate with the freedom they need as the veil of fear is thickening; the people are scared of meeting the politicians and the politicians cannot venture to go to the people's houses as that would endanger their lives. And, therefore, Sir, Shri Kar has strongly contested the claim of the State Governor that the time was ripe for political activity in the Valley. Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister whether the Government disagrees with the views of Shri Kar and if so, the reasons therefor.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I did not have the opportunity of going through the statement which the PCC President, Mr Kar, has made, but I have no fear in agreeing with the view expressed by the Governor of J and K. The Governor,

and K, has given a very responsible statement. I cannot disagree with him. It is Mr. Kar's personal view and I do not think it is borne out by facts.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, Mr. Kar has also charged that the Jammu and Kashmir administration is responsible for the administrative mess in the State. And he thinks that things have come to such a sorry state that the things are being handled by the Central Government Secretaries while the Governor and the Advisers are ensconsed in the safety of their seats, refusing to move out. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he agrees with Shri Kar's views—of course, he said, "no"—and if not, what the exact ground realities are in the Valley regarding both the extent of infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir and the effectiveness of the security forces both to check the ingress of militants into the Valley and to contain their insurgency inside the Valley.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the Government is concerned, we can be held accountable for any statement made by the Government officer or the Governor, but I cannot possibly reply here in this House if any of the office-bearers of the PCC expressed certain views. He would have expressed certain views. I cannot possibly keep track as to what exactly have been the views which he has been expressing. But I have no hesitation in saying that he has been very infrequently going to Jammu and Kashmir. He is mostly in Delhi. And whenever he goes, either he goes with the Ministers or comes back with the Ministers. He does not stay over there.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : मान्यवर सभापति जी, जम्मू-काश्मीर के राज्यपाल महोदय ने बयान दिया है कि राज्य की स्थिति चुनाव कराए जाने के अनुकूल है और सरकार और माननीय गृह मंत्री जी को इसकी जानकारी भी है। इसको इन्होंने स्वीकार किया है, लेकिन गृह मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि प्रजातांत्रिक संस्थानों की बहाली के लिए सरकार प्रतिबद्ध है, यद्यपि समय-सीमा बताना व्यावहारिक नहीं है। इस बात को भी मैं स्वीकार कर रहा हूं, लेकिन सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि व्यावहारिक तो नहीं है, लेकिन आपने क्या कोई असेसमेंट किया है या कोई अंदाज लगाया है कि कितने समय के अंदर स्थिति सामान्य हो जाएगी और आप चुनाव कराने में समर्थ हो जाएंगे और मान्यवर प्रश्न का "बी" पार्ट है कि आज तक सरकार ने इस दिशा में क्या प्रयास किया है कि जम्मू और काश्मीर की स्थिति सामान्य हो जाए, वहां चुनाव कराए जा सकें और एक लोकप्रिय सरकार का गठन किया जा सके ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, the Government has its own assessment as to when the political process can be started in Jamm and Kashmir. But, it will not be in the public interest to divulge any exact programme as to what the Government's thinking is in the matter because if I announce anything here, it is bound to lead to escalation in violence in that area. So, it will not be in the public interest to say anything at this stage. We have our own assessment, Sir.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : प्रयास क्या किया है, यह मेरा पार्ट "बी" है। अब तक आपने क्या प्रयास किया है ? आप समय मत बताइए।

श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण : प्रयास के बारे में तो यह कह सकते हैं कि सारी पोलिटिकल पार्टीज के साथ हम लोग बात करते हैं और उनसे यह प्रार्थना करते हैं कि आप अपनी लोकल यूनिट्स को एक्टिवाइज करने की कोशिश कीजिए। इसके बावजूद अगर कोई लोकल यूनिट वहां एक्टिवाइज नहीं होती है तो वह अपनी-अपनी मर्जी की बात है। उसमें किसी पर हम जबर्दस्ती नहीं कर सकेंगे बल्कि एक स्टेज पर तो मैं सोच रहा था कि कुछ पोलिटिकल पार्टीज के लीडर्स को, जब भी मैं वहां जाऊं, अगर पब्लिक मीटिंग मुझ एड्रेस करनी है तो उनको साथ लेकर जाऊं ताकि उनमें एक किस्म का कांफीडेंस

पैदा हो कि वह भी जाकर पब्लिक मीटिंग एड्रेस कर सकते हैं । ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है, लेकिन जब तक आप प्रोटेक्शनिस्ट व्यू लेना चाहते हैं कि क्यों आपने आपको एक्सपोज करें, उस वक्त तक तो यही हालत बनी रहेगी । अपने आपको एक्सपोज करना बहुत जरूरी है और वहां लोगों के मूड में काफी तब्दीली आई है । यह बात सच है कि अब लोग मिलीटेंट्स के साथ नहीं हैं, पहले जैसे थे । अब लोग चाहते हैं कि हम मेनस्ट्रीम में रहें और इसका फायदा उठाना हर पोलिटिकल पार्टी का काम है ।

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, my question is very simple, that is, whether it is not a fact that premature contacts with some political elements have resulted in the death of those people, for example, Maulvi Farooq was killed like this, Prof. Guroo was killed like this, Maulvi Nissar has been killed like this. Therefore, is it not proper that we should not contact anyone till ground-level control is fully established?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I agree with the hon. Member that if any individual needs to be contacted, it has to be kept a closely-guarded secret. If it is divulged, of course, there is always the danger of the person being killed. That is exactly what had happened. I would not disagree with him.

SHRI K. M. KHAN: Sir, in the last few years, the tourism industry which is the main source of livelihood for the Kashmiri people has come to a grinding halt due to the terrorist activities there. The tourist traffic in Jammu and Kashmir has been affected and the educated, the uneducated and the semi-educated youths are facing a lot of problems due to lack of employment. This is the situation in which Pakistan is exploiting the unemployed youths for its nefarious designs. Therefore, in a situation like this, until and unless the Government concentrates on providing employment to these frustrated youths we cannot expect a climate which would be conducive to holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking to solve this problem of unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Government is aware of the fact that the main problem which the Kashmiri youth is facing today is that of unemployment. There is no doubt about that. Of course, in a small way, tourism activity has been started in that area. But that is not good enough to give the kind of employment which, in fact, is expected in the atmosphere in which the youth in that part of the country is living. That is why, not only in the recruitment of paramilitary forces in the area, but outside also, we are making conscious efforts to see that Kashmiri youths are given priority in matters of recruitment.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Home Minister is aware that a vicious propaganda is being carried on in foreign countries that Kashmir is ruled by a military regime and that it is administered under martial law. In this context, is there any proposal to replace the Governor by a political person so that the democratic process is stepped up?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: There is no such proposal.

मौलाना हबीबुर्रहमान नोमानी : सभापति जी, मैं आपके जरिए यह जानना चाहता हूं और यह कहना चाहता हूं कि कश्मीर के जो हालात हैं, जब तक गवर्नमेंट हिम्मत के साथ, जुरअत के साथ कोई कदम नहीं उठाती है, जब तक कश्मीर को अवामी नुमाइंदों के हाथों में नहीं सौंपा जाता है, तब तक वहां के हालात नार्मल नहीं हो सकते और जब भी इस तरह की बात होगी तो सिर्फ यह नहीं कि वहां के उग्रवादी बल्कि जो दूसरे लोग हैं, जिनको हम कह देते हैं कि ब्यूरोक्रेसी के लोग हैं, वे भी नहीं चाहते कि अवामी नुमाइंदों के हाथ में वहां की बागडोर आए, इसलिए वह षडयंत्र दोनों तरफ से होता है । इसलिए मैं आपके

जरिए से कहना चाहता हूं कि जैसे पंजाब में हिम्मत करके गवर्नमेंट बनाई गई, कश्मीर को भी आवामी नुमाइंदों के हाथों में सौंपना चाहिए । जिस दिन आप इससे आवामी नुमाइंदों के हाथ सौंपेंगे, हालात बेहतर होते जाएंगे और जो उग्रवादी हैं, उनका ताल्लुक आवाम से कटता जाएगा और वह दूर होते जाएंगे ।

श्री एस ०बी० चव्हाण : अभी जो बात ऑनरेबल मैम्बर ने कही, उस राय से मैं इत्तेफाक रखता हूं कि कुछ वहां की ब्यूरोक्रेसी में भी ऐसे लोग हैं जो चाहते हैं कि हालात जो अभी हैं, वे ऐसे ही रहें, लेकिन यह बात सच है कि जब तक डेमोक्रेटिक सैट-अप वहां न आए, उस वक्त तक जिस किस्म की हालात में तब्दीली हम चाहते हैं, वह तब्दीली लाना हमारे लिए मुश्किल है । इसलिए जितना जल्द हो सकता है वहां पर हम डेमोक्रेटिक प्रोसेस शुरु करके वहां के इलेक्शन जितनी जल्दी हो सकते हैं, वह कराने के हालात पैदा करने में गवर्नमेंट इंटरस्टेड है इसीलिए सबसे पहले नौर्मलाइजेशन का प्रोसेस वहां पर शुरु किया जाए और उस के लिए पूरी कोशिश इस गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से की जा रही है । आप की राय से मैं इत्तफाक करता हूं कि हिम्मत के साथ वहां पर इलेक्शन होना बहुत जरुरी है ।

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, there are press reports about the difficulties of the pilgrims to Amernath. The militants have banned the route, and the police officials and other administrative officials are also not co-operating with the Government. Under such circumstances, what steps are being taken by the Government to have a smooth passage for those pilgrims, and what steps are being taken to bring back normalcy in that area?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the Amarnath Yatra is concerned, we have made necessary arrangements in the matter. We have also seen to it that some of the difficulties which some people were expressing about going to Hazratbal are also to some extent removed so that they may not have this kind of grievance that they are not able to go in that area even for *namaz*. So, both the efforts are being made. On the one side, we are trying to create a conducive atmosphere in which going for *namaz* in the Hazratbal area becomes easy for everybody concerned. Whatever be their legitimate aspirations, we are attending to them. On the other hand, if it becomes absolutely necessary, even army protection will also be given to Amarnath *yatris*.

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे (महाराष्ट्र): मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि भारत सरकार ने कई स्कीमें इम्प्लॉइमेंट की विशेषत: जम्मू-कश्मीर के युवकों के लिए बनाई थी लेकिन आज भी काफी कम्प्लेंट्स आ रही हैं कि युवकों को वहां कोई ऑपॉर्च्युनिटी नहीं मिल रही है । इस का मतलब हम समझते है कि वहां के जो आफिसर है वे इन स्कीमो को एक्सप्लाइट कर रहे है उन स्कीमों को वहां तक नहीं पहुंचा रहे हैं । तो इसके लिए मैंने एक सुझाव दिया था कि आपकी जो स्कीमें हैं, वह युवकों के लिए, स्पेशली जम्मू-कश्मीर के युवकों के लिए बनाई जाएं और केवल जम्मू-कश्मीर के युवकों के लिए इन स्कीमों पर कार्यवाही की जाए ताकि वे उग्रवादी न बन सकें और उनको इमीडिएट इम्प्लॉमेंट मिल सके । ऐसी योजनाओं के लिए मैंने कई बातें कही थीं । तो इस पर भारत सरकार या आप का विभाग कुछ विचार कर रहा है या नहीं ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, it will be extremely difficult for the Government to chalk out any scheme exclusively for Jammu and Kashmir, but, at the same time, I have announced already that we propose to give priority to all the Jammu and Kashmir youths. So, there is hardly any distinction between the two, but, once we take recource to some kind of reservation only for Jammu and Kashmir, it is bound to create some legal and constitutional problems.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: This is in view of the difficult situation in that particular

area. That is one of the alternatives to solve the problem of terrorism. That is why this suggestion was given. We will have to go out our of the way in view of the peculiar situation in the country.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: We are, in fact, very much interested in seeing that we go out of the way to satisfy the youths of Jammu and Kashmir and in seeing that they are given priority in matters of employment. As far as my information goes, there is a tremendous amount of satisfaction on that secre. May be stray incidents are there. If they were to approach proper authorities, I am sure, their grievances can be redressed.

*142(The questioner (Shri Janardan Yadav and Shri Kameshwar Paswan). were absent. For answer, vide col..... uifra]

Granting visas to Indian Nationals by Malaysia

*143. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Economic Times' dated the 5th July, 1994 about granting visas by Malaysian Government to Indian Nationals;

(b) whether the statement attributed to an officer of the Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board in this news-item is correct;

(c) whether the Malaysian Government has restricted the issue of visas to Indian Nationals in recent times; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) With effect from 1.1.1993. Government of Malaysia unilaterally imposed the current restrictive visa regime not only on citizens of India but also of Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Sri Lanka and subsequently Myanmar.

(d) No reasons were given. Ostensibly, the measure is to check entry of illegal immigrants into Malaysia from these countries.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Sir, the statement says: The recent stringecy adopted by the Malaysian Government in granting visas to Indians has been done at the instance of the Indian Government. No Government office has contradicted this statement and it had been given wide publicity. *It is in The Economic Times*, I would like to know whether this issue was discussed with the Prime Minister of Malaysia during the recent visit. The hon. Minister has informed me that it was discussed and there was some imrovement. But till today there is no improvement Here is a comparison. More than one lakh people were travelling there. There are more than 10 lakh Indian Tamils living in Malaysia. So, naturally, every year lakhs of people were travelling there. Now, because visas were being refused only a few people in number are travelling. Now only one hundred or a thousand visas are being issued. What is the reason for this? I think at least the Tamil Indians living mostly in Malaysia and marrying Tamil girls in India are not being allowed to take their wives. Even today a woman married to a Malaysian Indian is living in India for the past six months without being able to join her husband. Why this kind of discrimination is there? I understand a Malaysian Indian Tamil girl can come and marry an Indian citizen and can take back her husband but a man cannot take his wife. Why is this discrimination being followed by some countries like Malaysia? I would like to know whether this issue was discussed and if so, whether any impronemext will come through.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Sir, there is no truth in the reported statement attributed to an official of the Malaysian Tourist Corporation Board. The question of visa was not touched upon during the meeting of the Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, with the Prime Minister of Malaysia. That is untrue.